

K-233

Brick House Farm  
Near Worton  
1st quarter 19th Century

The Brick House was constructed by either Thomas Maslin, Jr., or his son Jacob in the first quarter of the 19th century. The tract upon which the house was built is called "Harris' Forrest" and was part of Thomas Maslin's acquisitions in 1806-07 and 1810. The Maslin house was very similar to the Moffett house on Quaker Neck, a three bay long, two story brick structure with hall-parlor plan and a kitchen wing on its north gable. This house, however, possesses a corbeled brick cornice in contrast to the wood cornice of the Moffett House and it is painted white.

In 1883 Walter T. Morris acquired the farm which adjoined the farm of William Morris, (pt. of Town Relief) and the family has owned the farm ever since. In 1905 the old house was changed in a way that is very similar to Kinsale. The old kitchen wing was taken from the north gable and moved to the west side of the building with a hyphen between containing a new stair and entry. A porch was built on the east facade of the old house and over the new entry.

The house retains many original interior features along with the 1905 alterations. A contemporary brick smoke house remains north of the house. It also has a corbeled cornice. The house is a good example of the vernacular form and plan of farm houses in Kent County which began with Caulk's Field (1743) and continued into the middle of the 19th century.

BRICK HOUSE FARM  
Chestertown, Maryland  
(ca 1800)

By tradition this building is dated to 1772; architectural evidence, however, contradicts that date. The oil bricks used on the front facade, remaining interior details, and especially the corbel cornice indicate a construction date of the brick section of early 19th century, possibly as late as 1820.

As originally constructed the house was a two-story, gable roofed structure with a hall and parlour plan and a two-story frame wing attached to its gable. In 1905 the father of the present owner moved this side wing to the rear of the house constructing a story frame hyphen for the stair between the two sections of the building. At the same time, mantles and some trim in the two first floor rooms were changed, corner stairs were removed, the front porch was added, and the windows were changed. Thus in its evolution, Brick House Farm illustrates the impact of changing styles and living patterns on building form.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K - 233

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC "BRICK HOUSE FARM"

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER North side Mary Morris Road, one mile from  
junction with Flatland Road (514)

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

☒ VICINITY OF1st  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Kent

STATE

Maryland 21620

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME Brick House Farm, Inc.  
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Walter T. Morris, Jr.

Telephone #: 301-778-4763

STREET &amp; NUMBER

RFD 1, Box 635

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland 21620**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 21

Folio #: 724

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE

1968

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

K-233

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE (main house)  
☒ MOVED DATE ca 1905  
(wing)

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Brick House is a two story brick building with a steeply pitched wood shingle roof and tall brick chimneys enclosed in each gable. Rectangular in shape, the building is one bay deep and three bays wide. There is a full basement under the main house, but no watertable and no original windows on the gable wall except for pairs of four-light casements in each attic.

The front facade is Flemish bond and the sides and rear are Liverpool bond, but there is no visible decorative brick work except a three-step corbelled cornice and corbelled chimney caps. There is also a nice splayed flat arch over one basement window. Bricks measure  $2\frac{1}{2} - 3/4 \times 4 - 4\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$  with three courses averaging  $8 \frac{3}{8}$ ". Mortar joints are raked and the vertical joints are narrower than the horizontal. The brick walls are painted white.

Fenestration is evenly spaced on the south facade of the main house. Major windows have 2/2 Victorian sash secured in plain replacement frames set flush with the brick walls; the plain wooden sills are also flush. The major entry, located in the south facade, has a reproduction six-panel door and a three-light transom. The frame, transom bar, head and jambs are undecorated and are probably replacements.

In 1905 this building was remodeled and the wing formerly at the side of the building moved to the rear. Doorways on both floors in the east gable were changed to windows with the same 2/2 sash used elsewhere. The cellar entry on the south side of this gable was also altered and a new enclosed entry constructed in the west end of the north wall. Inside the house there are doors into both first floor rooms in the north wall which originally was an exterior wall. Whether these are both original or whether the doorway into the east room is an addition cannot be ascertained with visible evidence. In all likelihood, windows were removed from the north wall on both floors.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-233

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES *early 19th century* BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*By tradition this building is dated to 1772; architectural evidence, however, contradicts that date. The oil bricks used, remaining interior details, and especially the corbel cornice indicate a construction date of the brick section of early 19th century, possibly as late as 1820.*

*As originally constructed the house had a hall and parlour plan and a two-story frame wing attached to its gable. In 1905 the father of the present owner moved this side wing to the rear of the house constructing a story frame hyphen for the stair between the two sections of the building. At the same time, mantles and some trim in the two first floor rooms were changed, corner stairs were removed, the front porch was added, and the windows were changed. Thus in its evolution, Brick House Farm illustrates the impact of changing styles and living patterns on building form.*

*The house was probably constructed by Thomas Maslin, Jr. or his immediate family. Mr. Maslin purchased the 180 acres of the Brick House Farm Track between 1806 and 1810, evidently from six brothers and sisters who seem to have inherited the property soon before. At that time the farm was made up of four tracts, Harris's Forest, Green Bank, Chance, and Spaulden.*

*The property stayed in Mr. Maslin's family until 1836 when it was sold to Thomas W. Hynson who gave the farm its present name. The property came into the Morris family on July 3, 1883 with its sale to the grandfather of its current owner.*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-233

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES***Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland*

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

*Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant*

ORGANIZATION

*Kent County Planning Commission*

DATE

*778-4600, ext.67*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Court House*

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

*Chestertown, Maryland 21620*

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

The original wing was two bays long, two bays wide, and two stories in height. When it was moved a two bay, two story hyphen was added to contain a new stair and rooms on both floors.

The wing has 6 over 6 sash windows with plain trim and a gable roof. This frame structure is covered with wooden siding which is finished against beaded verge boards on the gable.

At the same time as the wing was moved, a three bay, one-story porch with turned columns and a shallow hipped roof was constructed on the south facade. There is a similiar porch on the east side.

The two original rooms in the brick section are unchanged in size and shape although some detailing was altered in 1905. Elsewhere, window trim is a bead and quarterround, as shown below, and it remains on most windows and doors. Where changes have been made and in doors or windows in or associated with the hyphen, simple flat reeded trim is used. Early six-panel doors are found on the second floor of the brick section and there is one five-panel door, probably in its original frame, in the old frame wing. This element as well as wide yellow pine flooring are the most significant indications that the frame section is contemporaty with the brick one.

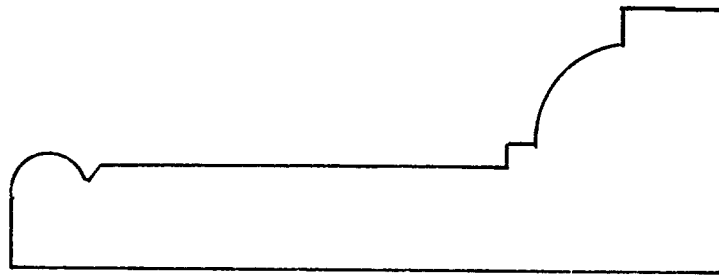
The mantles on the first floor date from 1905. That in the hall (living room) is wood and has a plain frieze and pilasters surrounding a rectangular opening. The mantle in the former parlour is of marbelized slate; the opening is round and there are three colors of marbelizing. The one original molding on the second floor, east room, has a quarterround surround and a molded mantle shelf whose profile indicates Federal influence. There are also beaded board closets in the bedrooms and a corner cupboard in the dining room with recessed panels. A portion of raised and beveled paneling had been reused as an attic partition. It may originally have been a part of a paneled closet or stair.

The present stair, located in the hyphen, has short turned balusters set between a closed string and a molded handrail. The newels are square and have a ball top. The design of this feature is typical of the turn of this century.

The other interesting building on this property is the old smokehouse of brick; its masonry detailing closely resembles that of the house. The structure has a gable roof which is finished with beaded verge boards and a box cornice, and a board door hung on strap hinges with arrowhead ends. The bond is Liverpool and the cornice has four steps. The rafters are half-lapped and pegged together at the ridge.

Brick House Farm is located near the head of the west branch of Radcliffe Creek. The Creek runs west of the house and is dammed to form a pond across the road from the house. South, west, and north of the house are open fields with distant views of treelines. All of the farm buildings behind the house are of recent date, except for one large hay barn which was probably constructed in the fourth quarter of the last century.

K-233  
Original Trim  
First and Second Floors





BRICK HOUSE FARM (K-233)  
Chain of Title

Land Records of  
Kent County

Transaction

EHP 21  
724

TO: Brick House Farm, Inc.  
FROM: Walter T. Morris, Jr. & Elizabeth Morris  
DATE: March 30, 1967

Tract #1 - Brick House Farm; except the 11  
acres + sold by Walter T. Morris to Penelope  
Pennell in 12/13/1887. (SB 10/42.)

SB 4  
370

TO: Walter T. Morris  
FROM: William H. Pennell & wife  
DATE: July 3, 1883

For \$10,800 "Brick House Farm" with 180 +  
acres.

DCB 4  
298

TO: William H. Pennell  
FROM: Mary S. Hynson, Executrix  
DATE: October 1, 1878

This contains the deeds which refer to 1. Old  
Morris house and 2. Brick House Farm (180 acres)

JNG 4  
475

TO: Thomas W. Hynson  
FROM: Sewell Hepbron & Martha Hepbron  
DATE: December 28, 1836

For \$2,000 four tracts: Harris's Forest,  
Green Bank, Chance, Spaulden, 173 + acres

TW 3  
390

TO: Thomas Maslin, Jr.  
FROM: John Wroth, Benjamin Wroth, Priscilla  
Smith & Martha Wroth  
DATE: March 10, 1806 (170 acres of 4 tracts  
above)

BC 5  
98

TO: Thomas Maslin, Jr.  
FROM: Pengrin Wroth  
DATE: August 3, 1807

Land Records of  
Kent County

Transaction

BC 6  
119

TO: Thomas Maslin, Jr.  
FROM: William Wroth  
DATE: March 16, 1810 (total of 180 acres)

5 acres of Harris Forest called Lot #8

Lands descended to Martha Priscilla Hepbron from Martha Priscilla Maslin from Thomas Maslin, Jr., along with the buildings. Evidently Maslin bought the land in three parts probably from children of the former owner.

NOTE: An inventory dated November 11, 1807, (Kent County Inventories # 13, p.110) by a Thomas Maslin, leaves a dwelling house and plantation to his son Jacob. Thomas didn't die until 1814 and he did have a son named Thomas; they were Quakers. Since the content of this inventory and the date of land purchase, it seems unlikely that Brick House Farm is the property referred to. No will or inventory for another Thomas Maslin is on file in Kent County.

1. STATE <u>md</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Chestertown</u> VICINITY STREET NO. <u>Wm Morris Road</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Brick House Farm Inc.</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-233</u>	
2. NAME <u>Brick House Farm</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>1792 &amp; later</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u>			
<p>           The brick house Farm is said to have been built in 1792, as there was a date in the brickwork prior to its present coat of white paint. However, the stepped brick cornice seems to date from a later period, if not the whole house. It is 3 bays long and 1 bay deep. The south facade is laid in Flemish bond. There are neither belt course nor water table. The central entrance has panel doors and door with transoms. <del>Below the front</del> Beneath the porch on hidden the arches above the windows, which have 2 1/2 inch x 1 inch shutters throughout. There is a very steeply pitched "A" roof with tall chimneys on each gable and small covelet beside the chimney on the gable. To the north of the building is a frame 2 story wing <sup>about</sup> the same size as the brick section.         </p> <p>           Northeast of the house is a good brick outbuilding with hipped stepped cornice. It also has very long strap hump, and a vault in the gable, <del>of</del> the size of 5 bays.         </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>good</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Oct 1, 1968</u>	

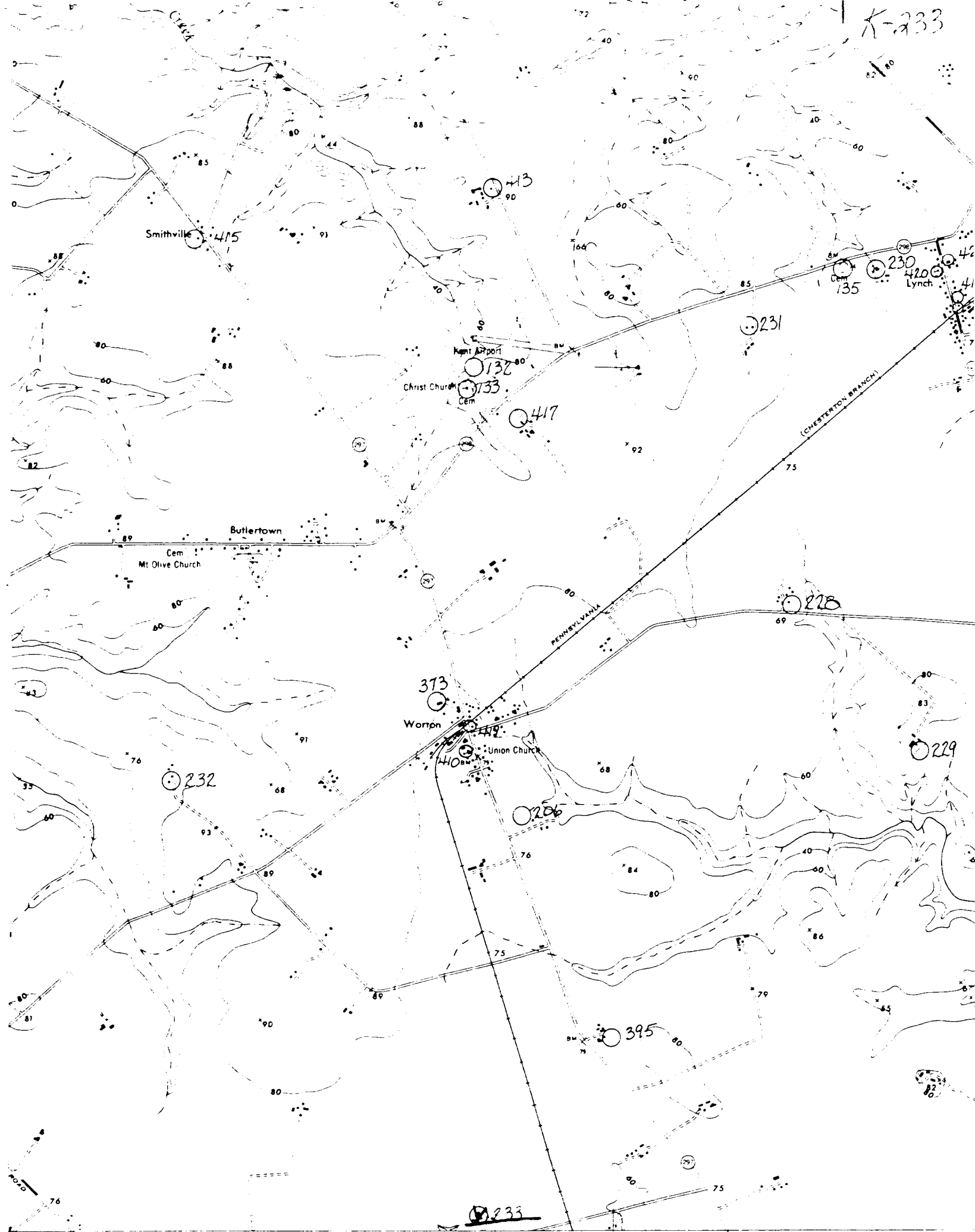
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

 family  
 Walter T. Morris

The Brick House Farm is said to have been built in 1772, as there was a date in the brickwork prior to its present coat of white paint. However, the stepped brick cornice seems to date from a later period, if not the whole house. It is three bays long and one bay deep. The south facade is laid in Flenish bond. There are neither belt course ~~or~~ nor water table. The central entrance has panelled jambs and door with transom. Beneath the front porch are hidden the arches above the windows, which have 2/2 sashes and louvered shutters throughout. There is a very steeply pitched A roof with tall chimneys on each gable and small casement beside the chimney on the gable. To the north of the building is a frame two-story wing of about the same size as the brick section.

Northeast of the house is a good brick outbuilding, also many stepped cornices. It also has many long strap hinges, and a vent in the gable, the size of 5 headers.

K-233





Brick House Farm  
View to the North K-233

M. L. Fritz

2/1980

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND  
JAN 15 1980

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
ANNAPOLIS

K-233 Brick House Farm C.1820